BRANCH LINE

NMRA'S FIRST REGION

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BOB FERGUSON PRESENTED 1997 JOHN ALLEN AWARD

This year's recipient of the coveted John Allen Award is Bob Ferguson. As Ray deBlieck indicated when he presented the award to Bob at the banquet during the PCR Convention in Bakersfield, Bob was to many people a "surprise" winner. Not because Bob isn't richly deserving of this award, for he most certainly is. The surprise was that Bob had never before received this recognition. Probably everyone in PCR is familiar with Bob for he has been "Mr. Dependable" around our organization for many years.

Citing just of few of the many ways Bob has served us and thus "exemplified the characteristics exhibited by John Allen as a mentor and helper to other modelers", Bob was PCR President (and Trustee) for four years during the 1980's, he served as Branch Line Editor for six years, he has been Coast Division Paymaster since about 1987, he is currently (and has been for the past three years) the PCR Membership Services Chairman and in addition Bob is a long time and faithful member of the Coast Division Auction Accounting Team. Bob was on the PCR's "Milepost '87" Convention Committee, served as Treasurer for the 1994 "Pacific Coast Gold" Convention, is currently serving as Registrar for the NMRA Convention 2000 "21st Century Limited" and is an active member of the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club. Bob has previously built a 1 ½" scale railroad in his yard and now has an "N" scale layout under construction at home, in addition to his HO modeling at the club.

Congratulations Bob, on this long over due recognition for all your help and service to our hobby.

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AWARDS PRESENTED AT BAKERSFIELD

In addition to the John Allen Award presented to Bob Ferguson, the following other special awards were presented to PCR members during the banquet.

Presidents Awards were presented by PCR President Charlie Getz to Jim Tagney, out going PCR Vice-preseident and to Gay and Ed Liesse, who were busy through out the convention doing a wonderful job working at the Convention Registration Booth.

Member of the Year Awards were presented to:

Coast	Allen Fenton
Daylight	Brewster Bird
Sierra	Steve Geisenheimer
Redwood Empire	Jim Providenza

Congratulations to all these exceptional members.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

by Charles W. Getz, IV
PCR President and Trustee

"PEOPLE"

The PCR Convention this past May in Bakersfield was a wonderful time. If you missed it, you missed four days of absolute railroad bliss, with prototype tours to the Loop (and a memorable tour guide – you had to be there!), layout tours, clinics, the contest, show and manufactures room and the usual convention nonsense. But at the end of the convention, what struck all of us about the good time we had, was that it was based 99 percent on people. People we knew, people doing their jobs, people sharing their talent and time. If PCR is anything , it is "People." That's true of the NMRA as well. So the next time you get mad at "Them" or feel that "they" are running the NMRA or the PCR in a way you don't like, remember you are talking about people. If you don't like the way things are, become active and volunteer! You may be in charge of the very thing to which you object and can change it. Or you may be missing out on THE major benefit of membership – the chance to make some excellent friends in the PCR and NMRA.

This is an organization of people – people united with a common love of things railroad. What makes this organization work is volunteers. People like you. People who work, have a hobby, have family commitments, but think enough about their friends in the organization that they nevertheless find a few extra hours a month to help out. Right now, we are in need of additional volunteers. It isn't hard work. It doesn't take a lot of time. It really helps your friends in the PCR and NMRA. I'm looking for chairs for the N scale, O scale, narrow gauge and large scale committees. These committees meet very infrequently and the job is more of "coordinator" for people seeking information or sharing information in these aspects of the hobby. Can anyone help? Also Tiny Carsten, our PCR membership chair really could use a little bit of help. Aren't there a few members out there who could donate a little time here and there to help promote this organization and get new members! Each Division has a membership chair but we need some additional PCR volunteers to help relieve Tiny's burden. Tiny has been a tireless volunteer for this organization for many years. I would ask at least one or two of you out there to please contact me about helping out. My address and phone number appear in the Call Board on page 2 of this newsletter.

Volunteers make this organization run. Without volunteers there is no organization. Please reevaluate your commitment to this organization and contact me if you have a little time to spend. I promise it will not be a burden and you will experience not only the joy of helping the PCR but the rewards of doing so. Whether it is to achieve an AP certificate as an association volunteer or to just become one of "us", the rewards are real. I look forward to hearing from you and feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE MAY-JUN BRANCH LINE

An addition to our list of museums and operating railroads (page 26), at which you might consider volunteering is:
Northern Counties Logging Interpretive Assoc.
Eureka CA
(They have two operating steam locomotives and could use help)
3431 Forest Avenue, Eureka, CA 95503

We have an updated announcement from the Sonoma County Model Railroad Society (page 7)- see Division and Club Activities in this Issue.

We also failed to announce a hobby shop in Windsor (page 21). Seems like we've seen Chuck Kirkland at lots of the PCR and GATS shows lately but failed to note that he is doing business as Plane LOCO for Hobbies, 7700 Bell Road, Suite G, Windsor, CA 95492 and can be reached on (707)837-0204 or 1(800)562-6695.

Thanks to Bill Williams for bringing these items to our attention.

MODEL CONTEST RESULTS BAKERSFIELD, PCR 1997

Tony Thompson, Contest Chair

We had a quality contest in Bakersfield, and enjoyed an excellent contest room space, which we shared with the expansive display of Railroad Prototype Modelers. Winners were as follows (scores given for Merit Award entries):

Steam Locomotive - Open, 1st, Scott Maze, LNER 4-6-0 (106)
- Kit, 1st, Rudi von Prittwitz, SP 2-8-2

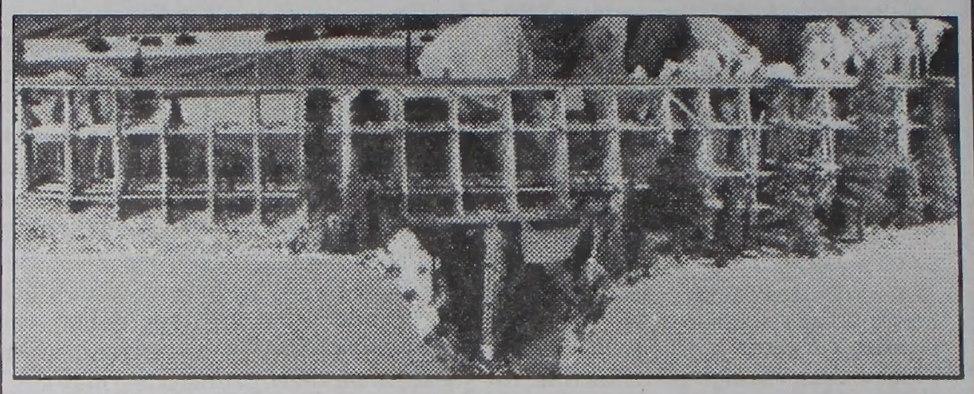
Traction - Open, 1st, Mac Gaddis, Bakersfield & Kern Electric

Diesel & Other - Open, 1st, David Hussey, ATSF SD40-2 (88)
2nd, Rudi von Prittwitz, SP GP40-X
3rd, Stephen Priest, ATSF SD39

Structure - Open, 1st, Chris Brennano, saw filers shack
Novice, 1st, Jim Providenza, coal tipple (88)

Display - Open, 1st, Bob Hyman, Omega ore tipple (113)
2nd, Chris Brennano, loggers camp
Novice, 1st, Ray Smith, garden railway

BEST IN SHOW



Bob Hyman's Rio Grande Southern Ophir Trestle in S Scale
Photo by Richard Hendrickson

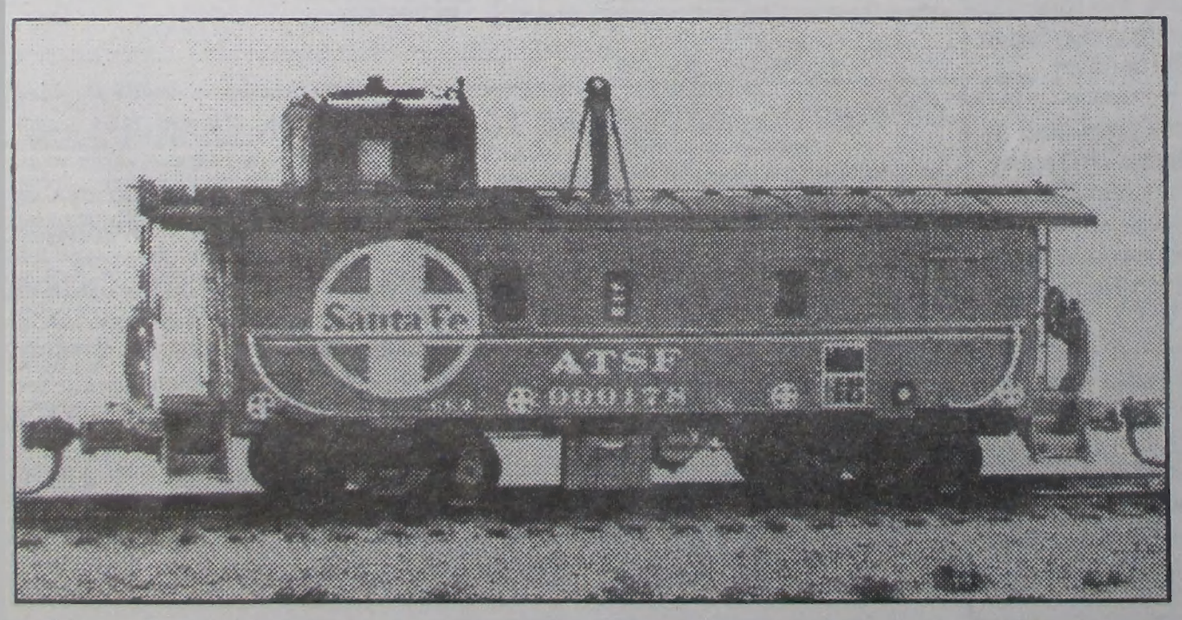
Freight - Open, 1st, Cinthia Priest, ATSF Ft-35 flat car, Boeing load (97)
2nd, Tony Thompson, Western Pacific gondola
Kit, 1st, Richard Hendrickson, ATSF Bx-34 box car
2nd, Don Cabral, flat cars with load

Caboose - Open, 1st, Stephen Priest, ATSF CE-2
2nd, Gene Mayer, Nickel Plate caboose
Kit, 1st, Gene Mayer, Union Pacific caboose
2nd, Gene Mayer, Seaboard Coast Line caboose

Maintenance of Way - Open, 1st, Gil Stratton, flanger (109)
2nd, Chris Brennano, steam donkey
3rd, Rudi von Prittwitz, Houston derrick
HM, Rudi von Prittwitz, SP snow plow
Kit, 1st, Bob Warner, Union Pacific flat car

Ingenuity Award - Ray Smith, "Radio Flyer Garden Railway"

Best In Show - Bob Hyman, Rio Grande Southern trestle (121)



This model of a Santa Fe Ce-6 class caboose won first place in caboose. The model, by Steve Priest is kitbashed from a CM Shops plastic kit that has been superdetailed and features wire grabs irons and full underbody detail.

Photo by Richard Hendrickson

PCR PHOTO CONTEST 1997

by Tony Thompson

Our dedicated and long-serving PCR Photo Contest Chair, Lisa Gorrell, has wrapped up her term. We owe a big debt of thanks to Lisa. Here are the photo contest results, courtesy of Jim Providenza, new Photo Contest Chair:

Slides, Prototype - 1st, Jim Whaley, "Queen at Rest"
2nd, Jim Whaley, "Royal Hudson"
3rd, Mike O'Brien, "SP at Rodeo"

Slides, Model - 1st, Mike O'Brien, "L&N at the river"
2nd, Mike O'Brien, "L&N loco and underpass"

Best in Show, Slides - Jim Whaley, "Stormy Fs"

Prints, Color, Model - 1st, Jeffrey Sipress, "SP Pacific"
2nd, Jeffrey Sipress, "ATSF Pacific"
3rd, Jeffrey Sipress, "Work Train"

Prints, Color, Other - 1st, Rich Kolm, "Locos at Grossmont"

Best in Show, Prints - Jim Whaley, "Narrow Gauge Dreaming"

We look forward to a new batch of fine contest models in 1998.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Jack Burgess, MMR

You may have noticed from the CALL BOARD that I have assumed the position of Chairman of the Achievement Program for the Pacific Coast Region from Jim Vail, who served as Chairman for a number of years and did an excellent job.

For those who are new to model railroading, the Achievement Program is a way to provide recognition to those NMRA members who have displayed a high degree of modeling skill, service to the hobby, and service to the NMRA. It is also a way to provide incentive to members to learn and master the many skills necessary to the hobby of model railroading.

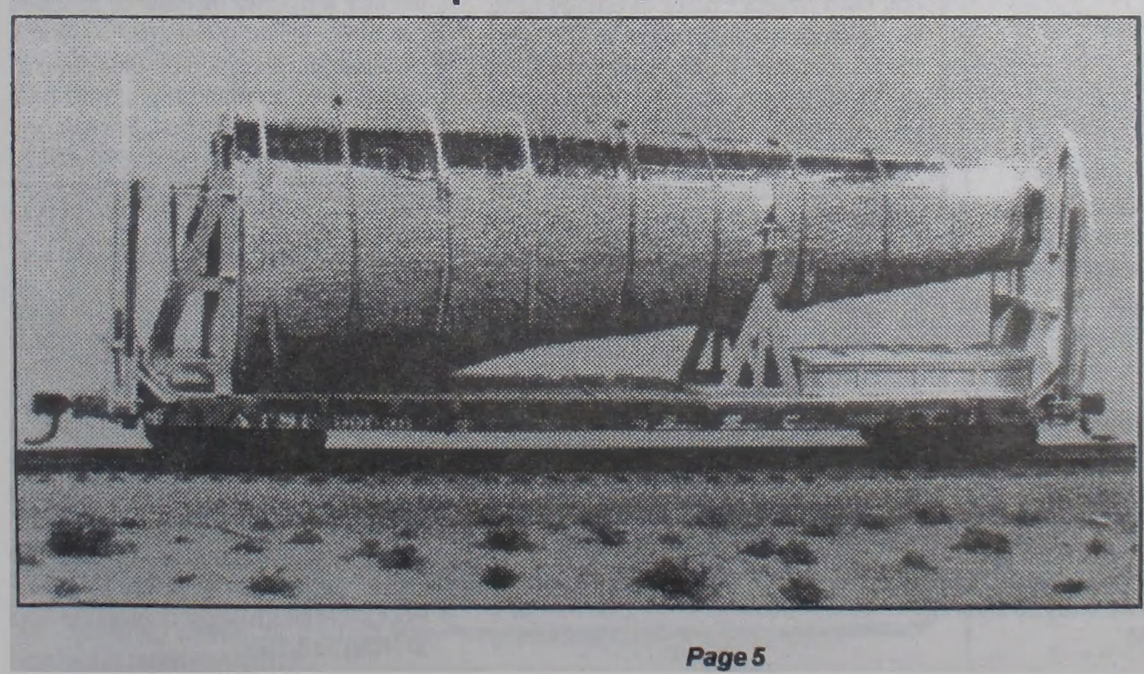
There are eleven categories in the Achievement Program – Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Prototype Models, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Chief Dispatcher, NMRA Official, NMRA Volunteer, and Author. Certificates can be earned by completing the requirements of that particular category. For example, the Certificate for Cars requires building eight operable, super-detailed scale models of railroad cars, with at least four of the eight models being scratch-built. In addition, at least four different types of cars must be represented in the total of eight, with one of the cars being a passenger car. Four of the models must also earn a score of at least 87 ½ points in either a Divisional, Regional, or National model contest or in the AP Merit Award judging. If you meet these requirements and complete a Statement of Qualifications, you can earn a Certificate in this category. The designation of Master Model Railroader or MMR is awarded to a modeler who earns at least seven individual Certificates.

Occasionally, the work necessary to earn a AP Certificate may seem onerous. However, it is an excellent way to improve one's modeling skills and finish some of those projects that have been collecting dust.

I am happy to report that six AP Certificates were awarded at the recent Pacific Coast Region Convention in Bakersfield. (Jim Vail gets credit for working with these modelers to complete these Certificates.) Boone Morrison, from the Hawaii Division, was awarded two Certificates for Master Builder, Cars and Master Builder - Scenery. Anthony Navarro, from the Sierra Division, was awarded three Certificates for Model Railroad Engineer - Civil Engineer, Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, and Chief Dispatcher! I hope I will be presenting him with more certificates in the near future!

Also in Bakersfield, Robert Randall of the Daylight Division was awarded a Golden Spike Award. More about this program in the next issue of the Branch Line.

If you are interested in the AP Program or Golden Spike Program, contact me for more details. My phone number, address, and e-mail address are listed in the Call Board on Page 2.



Cindy Priest built this scratchbuilt Santa Fe flat car with an eye-catching load, a Boeing aircraft fuselage section supported by special fixtures. This model won first place in freight cars and qualified for a merit award in the PCR Contest. It was also part of the RPM display.

Photo by Richard Hendrickson

DIVISION AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR

The 21st annual presentation of International Railfair will be held on November 8th and 9th. Show hours are 10 AM - 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM - 4 PM on Sunday. This is the West's premiere model railroad show, occupying four buildings at the Placer County Fairgrounds and the adjacent Armory in Roseville, CA. The exhibition features a dozen operating, fully scenicked model railroads. In addition to both scale and tinplate American railroads, visitors also can watch European train models gliding under operational catenary through magnificent alpine scenery and past beautiful Swiss chalets. The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers will have operating miniature trains on which the public may ride, weather permitting. NEW THIS YEAR: Visitors will be able to pump a full-size handcar along a length of track, again, if weather permits. Vendor sales, used modeling supplies, historical and educational displays and videotapes of railroads in action are also a part of this exhibition. The Train Mart is a popular consignment store where the general public can buy or sell used model railroading equipment and prototype memorabilia.

The success of this show is related to the fact that it is a real family affair, a show to which Mom and Dad can bring the kids, spend a day of togetherness and have a picnic on the grass. Admission is by a donation of $5 for adults and $2 for children 5-12. Sunday is Family Day when the whole family can enjoy the exhibition for a donation of $10. The first 200 children attending will receive a free commemorative pin, while supplies last. We emphasize model railroading as a family hobby. The Rainbow girls operate the snack bars and we thus provide useful, productive activities for teens.

The show is sponsored by the European Train Enthusiasts; Sacramento Modular Railroaders; Sierra Division, PCR/NMRA and Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club. You are welcome to bring model railroad items for consignment sale for a 10% commission. If you have over 20 items please contact us before the show. For information about the show, sales tables or the Train Mart send a LSSAE to IRF, Inc., PO Box 361, Roseville, CA 95678. You may also contact IRF via e-mail at irf@softcom.net or by calling Eugene or Lori Volz on (916) 991-4343.

VALLEJO MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Vallejo Model Railroad Club (VMRC) celebrates it's 20th anniversary this year. Fellow model railroaders of all ages and scales are warmly invited to visit the Club at its home and layout in the Civic Building, 900 Fairgrounds Drive, across from Marine World/Africa-USA, off I-80 and Highway 37 in Vallejo.

The VMRC is open each Wednesday and Friday evening, holidays excepted, starting at 7:00 PM and has both 'N' and 'HO' scale model railroads, the "Vallejo and Solano Western". To reach the Civic Building, exit off Highway 37 onto Fairgrounds Parkway and turn onto Sage Street. Enter the Fairgrounds via Gate #1. There is ample parking and easy access into the building. For information, write to: PO Box 4057, Vallejo, CA 94590 or telephone the club at (707) 643-1809. This line has an answering machine. Roger Lambert, Secretary, may be contacted at (707) 552-1768.

SILICON VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The club meets Friday evenings (and some Wednesdays) between 7:30 and 11 PM. The modular HO club has a 2000 sq ft facility with an operational layout featuring double track mainline, a 24 foot long 11 track yard and permanent mountain grade sections under construction. We utilize a computerized multiple train order system for monthly operating sessions. The club is located at 700 Kings Row #26, near the 101 and 880 freeway intersection. For more information call Jules Schlechter, President (408) 377-5491.

If you would like to have your club shows, division meets, etc. announced in the newsletter of the Pacific Coast Region, send the information to Dave Connery, 3408 Lanai Dr., San Ramon, CA 94583

BAY AREA "S" SCALERS

Modelers in "S" or Sn3 scale in the San Francisco Bay Area get together at a member's home every other month (normally the 3rd Saturday of odd numbered months) to exchange ideas and view the host's layout. Several of the members are into modules and they are usually assembled at the meetings when space is available.

A newsletter is published bimonthly and distributed to members.

Individuals interested in the group or trying "S" scale may contact Lee Johnson, 2472 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, phone (510)943-1590 or at work (415)541-1742 or they may contact Barney Daehler, 16041 Penn Avenue, San Lorenzo, CA 94580 phone (510)276-6168.

SACRAMENTO MODULAR RAILROADERS

We're a club for all model railroaders, beginners or experienced. Our interchangeable modules can connect in various ways to quickly set up a portable model railroad in many sizes and shapes. The club owns two large switch yards, the corner modules, end loops and some equipment. Members own the remaining modules and rolling stock. We have a lot of fun and always welcome visitors or prospective members to our meetings. Activities include public shows, club operating meetings and co-sponsorship of International Railfair each November. For information call Dick Witzens at (916) 966-4592

SOUTH BAY HISTORICAL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The South Bay Historical Railroad Society invites interested modelers to visit us in the historic Santa Clara CalTrain Depot, 1005 Railroad Avenue, Santa Clara. We have our large HO and N scale operating layouts, as well as live full sized railroading action just outside our building. Prospective new members are welcome to visit the Society on Tuesdays, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM or Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For further information, contact the Society at (408) 243-3969.

DIVISION AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

CARMEL TRAIN SHOW

The Annual Carmel Train Show will be held November 8 & 9 at the Crossroads Shopping center Mall located conveniently on Highway #1 at Rio Road in Carmel, California. The show hours on Saturday, November 8th are 10 AM - 6 PM and Sunday, November 9th 11 AM to 5 PM. The Show is presented by the Gorre & Daphetid Operators, Monterey Salinas Valley Model Railroaders and the Monterey Peninsula Garden Railway Society. Admission is free. For more information contact Allan Fenton (408) 624-5021

TRI-CITIES MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

The Tri-Cities Club meets in the restored Niles Depot at 36997 Mission Blvd., Fremont. The club has both N and HO scale layouts. The HO layout is being rebuilt. Members in both scales are welcome. Work nights are Friday, the business meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the Month and operating session are on the 1st and 3rd Sunday. For more information contact Stanley Keiser on (510) 791-1504.

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL

The California Central Model Railroad Club is located in the old Agnew depot (Santa Clara) of the Southern Pacific. The address is 4185 Bassett Street, but a better landmark is that we are directly across from the Lafayette Street main gate leading to the Agnew State Hospital.

The HO club layout occupies the entire inside of the structure measuring 15' by 50'. The theme is western railroading running loosely from the Bay Area to Southern Oregon, but with several liberties taken to include favorite geographical sites. This is a point-to-point design consisting of two divisions, one being double tracked and the other single track. These is also a substantial branch line operation running up in the mountains. We meet on Friday nights from around 7:30 until 11 PM. Official club operating sessions are held on the first and last Fridays of each month. If further information is desired, please call (408) 988-4449 on operating nights, or contact Wayne Cohen at (408) 779-0707.

EAST BAY CLUB

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum is open to the public every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. until October 26. Constructed and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society, the newly expanded layouts in O, HO and N scales encompasses some ten thousand square feet. Narrow gauge and traction lines are also incorporated in these layouts.

A great deal of familiar California scenery provides the setting for many steam and diesel powered passenger trains. They travel the length of the Central Valley from Roseville to Bakersfield and the Tehachapi Loop and from the Bay Area through Donner Pass in the Sierras. The industry's history is also shown in reproductions of the Oakland Mole and the Oakland and Sacramento stations in their glory years of the 30's and 40's. Also the narrow gauge and traction lines go back to these earlier years.

The museum is located at 900-A Doman Drive in Richmond, within the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park with easy access from I-580 going west to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. For information call (510) 234-4884 (recording). New and experienced modelers are invited to participate in the ongoing expansion of these layouts. Please contact Harold York (510) 582-9675 for membership information.

WEST BAY CLUB

The West Bay Model Railroad Association celebrated 50 years of existence in 1996! We operate a large layout that features three scales: O, S, and HO. We're always seeking qualified new members as we continue to update scenery, trackwork, and electrical systems. The club meets on Wednesday nights. Work sessions are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday, business meeting starts at 8 PM on the 2nd Wednesday, and open house from 7 - 10 PM on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The Club is located at 1090 Merrill Street in Menlo Park, housed in the buff-colored freight building just south of the CalTrain Station. Contact us any Wednesday night for more information on (415) 322-0685.

COAST DIVISION MEET

The Coast Division's next quarterly meeting will be held on September 7, 1997. We will be returning to our South Bay location, Santa Clara's Emil Buchser Middle School. It is located at the corner of Bellomy and Washington Streets, in Santa Clara.

The meet will include clinics, model contests (reefers and vehicles), a photo contest, switching contest a brief business meeting with reports on NMRA activities and other railroad oriented activities in our area, the regular Coast Division auction and a raffle and door prizes. For those that need to satisfy their hunger during the meet, our Rainbow Girls snack bar will be operating as usual. It all starts at 9:30 AM. All model railroad enthusiasts are welcome and encouraged to attend. It's hard not to have a good time and you just might win a prize or find that goodie you've been looking for at the auction. If you need more information contact Rod Smith, 40330 Monte Ct., Fremont, CA 94538, or call (510)657-3362.

WALNUT CREEK MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club holds regular monthly public operating sessions on the third Sunday, from 1-5 and the last Friday of each month from 8-10 PM. Membership is open to all interested in HO Scale. The club will be embarking on some exciting new projects this year. For more information come to the club building any Friday night. The club is located at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. (Larkey Park), Walnut Creek, CA. Phone (510)937-1888 [recorder]. Visit our web site at www.well.com/user/aleks/DVL.

DIVISION AND CLUB ACTIVITIES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Contributors note:
Next Deadline is
SEPT 15, 1997
for the
OCT-DEC 1997 ISSUE

DIVISION AND CLUB ACTIVITIES (cont.)

SONOMA COUNTY MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY

The Sonoma County Model Railroad Society (SCMRS) would like to announce their acquisition of a new home for their HO scale model railroad. The organization has negotiated a lease for approximately 1100 square feet of space in the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Rosa. We have spent the winter renovating the space and preparing it for the construction of a layout. Track planning and overall concepts of the layout are presently being finalized and the actual construction of the bench work should be started before you read this. The layout is intended to be "state of the art". We are considering such elements as prototypical signaling and dispatching, with the eventual phase-in of DCC. The control and operating systems are being designed to allow the novice to operate the railroad as well as offer a challenge to the more experienced modeler.

The SCMRS is dedicated to the development and expansion of the hobby of model railroading in Sonoma County. The group is planning, in addition to traditional model railroading activities, and on-going involvement with the Boys & Girls Club and other youth organizations. The SCMRS will offer programs to the youth organizations, which will enable their members to learn and experience the varied skills and techniques used in the construction and operation of a model railroad.

The group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Rosa at the corner of Hahman Dr. & Patio Ct. The location is one block east of Farmers Lane next to Montgomery Village. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and memberships are open.

Should the idea of joining in and helping to design, build, and operate a permanent layout with the added bonus of working with young people interest you, please contact Howard Brown at (707)578-0640 or e-mail to howardb@sonic.net.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS
(April - June 1997)

OUT OF REGION

ALLEN, RICK	FOOTHILL RANCH, CA
ALLEN, KEN	SAN MARCOS, CA
HART, CHARLES	POWAY, CA
MISTROT, GUS	HOUSTON, TX
MISTROT, BERNICE	HOUSTON, TX
SLATILLA, AL	LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

CAMPBELL, J RICHARD	LAKE ISABELLA, CA
DRAZIN, JOHN	BAKERSFIELD, CA
MCELRATH, ARBUTUS	DOS PALOS, CA
NICKELL, ROGER	RIDGECREST, CA
OTTEN, ADAM	BAKERSFIELD, CA
ROGERS, ALAN	BAKERSFIELD, CA
THOMPSON, KEN	ATWATER, CA
THOMPSON, SHIRLEY	ATWATER, CA
WAGNER, TAMMIE	BAKERSFIELD, CA
ZAVATTARI, BEA	VISALIA, CA

COAST DIVISION

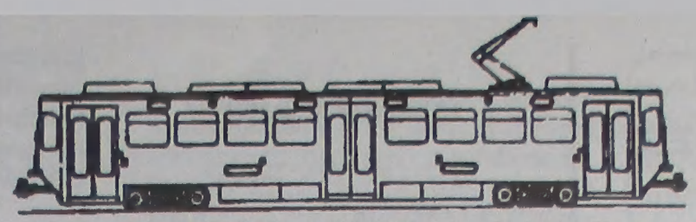
BELL, BOB	SAN JOSE, CA
COLTHARP, W CAMERON	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
COWARD, DOUGLAS	FREMONT, CA
GILL, RICHARD	BENICIA, CA
JAHN, BRUCE	LIVERMORE, CA
MACY, JOHN	SAN LEANDRO, CA
NOVAK, ROBERT	HAYWARD, CA
OGBORN, ANNE	SAN JOSE, CA
PALERMO, CHRISTOPHER	REDWOOD CITY, CA
PRESCOTT, LEO	HAYWARD, CA
VAN DER VEEN, JAN	FREMONT, CA
WOLFRUM, TOM	ORINDA, CA
WOLFRUM, MRS	ORINDA, CA
ZAWORSKI, EMMET	SAN JOSE, CA

SIERRA DIVISION

BORGER, ROBERT	SACRAMENTO, CA
FOSTER, MEL	TRACY, CA
HOFFMANN, JOHN	MODESTO, CA
HOUSTON, ALFRED	FAIR OAKS, CA
CARSON CITY RAILROAD ASSOC.	CARSON CITY, NV
SIEGEL, JAMES	GOLD RIVER, CA

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

BALLINGER, ALBERT	FAIRFIELD, CA
FOGG, WILLY	FORTUNA, CA
LYALL, SCOTT	WILLITS, CA
PLIES, RON	FORTUNA, CA



TRACTION IN ACTION

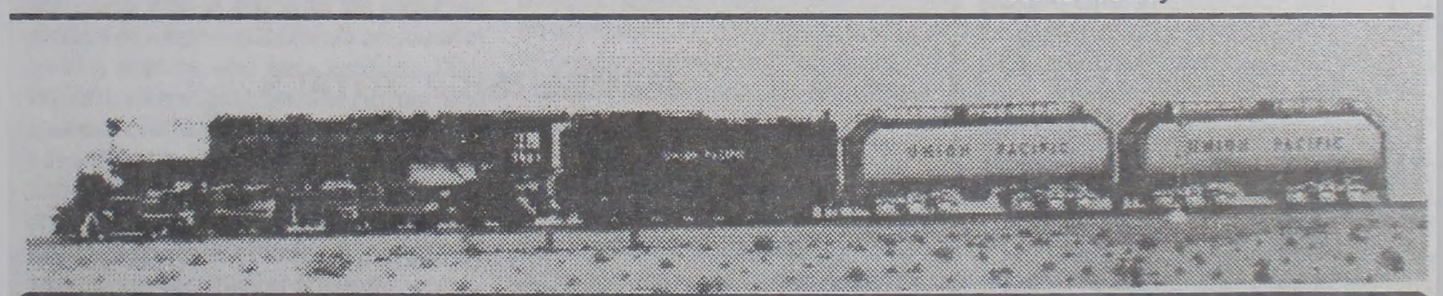
by Bill Everett

What a wonderful convention in Bakersfield. The hotel accommodations were the best. My fellow Daylight Division members did a bang up job. Thanks much members. If you didn't attend, you missed a good one. After the convention Betty and I headed north. I stopped at the California State Railroad Museum and donated another batch of traction models for their collection. Hope it won't be too long until they can construct the display. I'll have to keep checking on the progress. On the way home we stopped at Bill Hoffman's, and Bill and I worked on his layout. It now runs much better. With Bill's supervision and my working we did it.

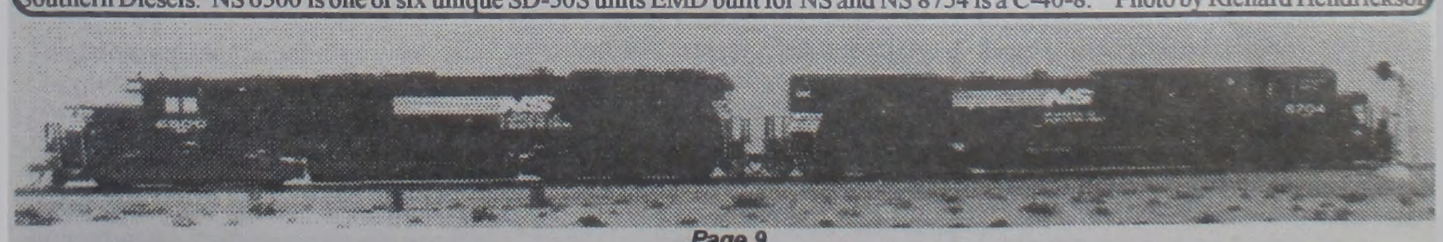
In my research I found out there was only one true interurban to run in Arizona. It was called the Warren-Bisbee Railway and it did run between these two towns. It had about 8 ½ miles of trackage. This is rugged country and was copper country. They built the electric line to haul the copper miners to work, as Bisbee was in a narrow canyon with no room to build homes. As a result they went down the canyon to build miners homes and this area they called Warren. I am now constructing two interurban cars of this line. It took quite a bit of research since the south eastern area of Arizona is in a very remote section. The line was constructed in 1907 and ran until 1928 or only 20 years of service and thus photos are few.

Finally, after all these years a book came out on the Oregon Electric. Walter Grande, who is a retired railroad man who lives in Portland did a beautiful book. Let me go back to 1994. Walter and Tom Dill published a book on the Red Electrics of Portland Oregon. This system was owned by the Southern Pacific Railway. The S.P. electrified their suburban lines out of Portland in 1912. They went into it in a big way, ordering a fleet of large steel interurban cars. The system was ahead of its time but never made any money. The S.P. closed the system in 1929. Most of these beautiful interurban cars were shipped down to the Pacific Electric in Los Angeles. The P.E. put many of these cars through their shops and they came out with poles instead of pantographs, which they had previously had. On the P.E. they were known as the Portland 1200's. They ran until 1952 on the P.E. One car was constructed as a business car (#1299). This car is still with us, it is complete and at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona.

Now, back to the Oregon Electric. Just a few months ago Walter Grande published his latest book. It's title is "The Northwest's Own Railway, the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway and it's subsidiaries". Volume Two of the book covers the Oregon Electric Railway. It also covers the United Railways Company and the Spokane & Inland Empire Railroad System. All of these are electric lines which were a part of the S.P.& S. system. Grande does a very complete write up on these systems with many fine clear photos of the lines and cars. He said he spent 35 years on this project. The volume 2 which I purchased was not cheap but it contains 464 pages. When we held the NMRA National Convention in Eugene, Oregon about ten years ago I went to the Oregon Electric Station, which is still standing in Eugene. It was a restaurant and I just had to eat there. I've been there several times since. The Oregon Electric was probably the finest interurban in the Pacific Northwest. One car from this line is now at the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista. It is the observation car "Champoeg". The Oregon Electric ceased passenger service in 1933. It continued electric freight operation until 1945 and some trackage is still in use to this day.



RPM models on display at Bakersfield. Above: Dick Harley's Union Pacific 4-6-6-4 #3785 as it appeared in 1994 converted to an oil burner with two ex-turbine water tenders. Below: Cindy Winters built these super-detailed and custom painted and lettered Norfolk Southern Diesels. NS 6500 is one of six unique SD-50S units EMD built for NS and NS 8754 is a C-40-8. Photo by Richard Hendrickson



SWITCHING CONTEST

by Allan Fenton

There was a lot of interest in the John Allen Timesaver Switching Contest held during the PCR Convention in Bakersfield with 55 switching attempts. Here are the final results. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped with the contest.

Brake Person

1st	Kurtis Brown	7:14
2nd	Billy Scott	9:15
3rd	Joe Bohannon	10:00

Senior Brake Person

1st	Gary Wilson	4:32
2nd	Ken Liesse	4:46
3rd	Gary Evans	4:55

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

by Lisa Gorrell

Highlights of 1957 in PCR

Membership had gained from 387 to 837 in the two years that Leighton Keeling held the office of President. The convention that year was held in Long Beach. A Switching Problem Contest was introduced that year and two men, one as engineer and the other acting as conductor, were given a selection of six problems. Picking one, they went to work trying to switch out the train in the least possible moves and in the shortest time. "This provided some brain twisting moments for the crews but provided the opportunity to do some serious operating." Guest speaker at the convention was Mr. C.E. Rollins, L.A. Terminal Trainmaster of the Santa Fe Railway whose talk was on the supply problems of major railroads. The banquest speaker, William "Wild Bill" Stone, assistant Chief Special Agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad spoke on the workings of the Special Agents Department and how it worked with the local, state, and federal police agencies. Layouts opened were those of the Carlynwood Club, Ed and Virginia Fischer, and Bill "TV Star" Graves. Anyone remember those layouts???

MEMBERSHIP

by Carl W. "Tiny" Carsten
PCR Membership Promotion Chairman

First off, I would like to thank all who have assisted with our membership booths at the Great American Train Shows during this year. We just got the schedule for next year and there are not quite as many shows scheduled in PCR as we had in 1997. For some reason they have not scheduled shows for Marin and Reno as we have had the past few years but have added a show in Stockton. The schedule for 1998 GATS shows in the PCR is at the end of this article.

Regarding the GATS show in Reno, they were in the "Dust Bowl" last year and were scheduled for the same venue again this year, but things have changed. The show will now be at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center on the same dates, November 29th and 30th, and I understand it has a cement floor.

I would like to see our membership increase and it can if all of you got down to business and get your neighbors to join. Who knows, the guy next door might be a model railroader or someone who is in need of a great hobby like ours. NMRA membership has shown some slight improvement the past half year although prior to that we saw a steady membership drain for many months. At the same time it appears there are more people in the hobby than ever before. For my part, I try to help keep Re-Railing those who have not renewed but I can't push hard enough, that's why I need your help.

It's fun to work at a membership booth at one of the train shows and the GATS folks have really been most accommodating, providing us with a booth at each show. You get to help people who are new to the hobby or just getting interested, as well as see lots of your old friends in the hobby as they stroll by (its also a good excuse for you to spend some time at the show looking over the layouts on display and the many items for sale). Call me or your Division Membership Chairman and "sign-up" to help at the show nearest you. DO IT NOW.

1998 GATS Shows in PCR

Santa Barbara	Jan 3 & 4	Earl Warren Showgrounds
Sacramento	Jan 24 & 25	California Expo & Fairgrounds
Daly City	Feb 14 & 15	Cow Palace
Stockton	Mar 14 & 15	San Joaquin County Fairgrounds
San Mateo	Jun 13 & 14	San Mateo Expo Center
Fresno	Oct 3 & 4	Fresno Convention Center
Bakersfield	Nov 14 & 15	Kern County Fairgrounds
Pleasanton	Nov 28 & 29	Alameda County Fairgrounds

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

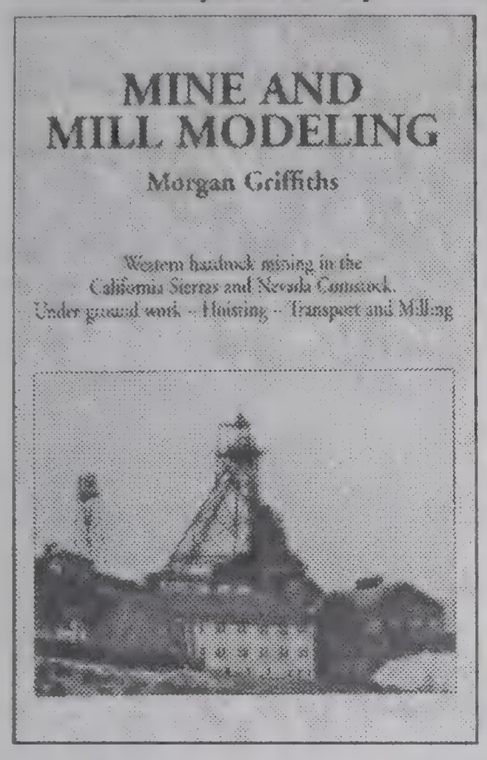
as of July 1, 1997

	REG	FAM	TOTAL
DAYLIGHT	111	15	126
COAST	595	36	631
SIERRA	185	14	199
REDWOOD EMPIRE	143	12	155
HAWAIIAN	11	0	11
OUT OF REGION	115	2	117
TOTAL	1160	79	1239

Made in the PCR

MINE AND MILL MODELING by Morgan Griffiths

Review by Dave Connery



Mine and Mill Modeling is a new, soft-cover book recently published and written by Morgan Griffiths. The book is not a how-to book about modeling, but rather a book about mining and milling that has all the background information and help needed by a person to enable them to create prototypically correct mine and mill models. I would consider it a handbook for someone who is going to be including models of western (California or Nevada) mining scenes and structures on their layouts. I found the book easy to read and a wealth of information on the subject. As a fan of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge and the Virginia & Truckee, I found this book especially interesting as these two railroads are both included in part as they served the two mining areas the author used for his examples (the Empire Mine in Grass Valley and the Comstock mining area in Virginia City, Nevada).

The book includes seven chapters. The first gives a brief history of mining and the development of hardrock mining here on the western slope of the continent. The next three chapters go into considerable detail about the Empire Mine's underground works, surface structures and the Empire Mill. Chapter five covers Comstock mines and some of the unique problems encountered there and the solutions developed, chapter six covers the NCNG RR and the V&T RR operations used to serve the two mining regions and the final chapter includes thoughts about modeling the surface operations of a mine. The reading goes quickly and is easily consumed in an evening.

Of greater interest to modelers are the 26 photos and 17 drawings included in the book. There is also a 5 page chronology of mining and related railroad events in the two mining areas and a very interesting six page glossary of mining terms, a bibliography of references used and even a recipe for Cornish Pasties (the traditional meal carried into the mine by miners from Cornwall, England), who were employed extensively in the hard rock mines here in the west.

My only complaints about the book are that seven photos are printed twice (both in chapter front pieces and again in the text and I would have wished the space had been used to print additional photos. Also the 5 ½ " X 8 ½" format did not allow the drawings to be printed as large as I would have liked. This is particularly true of the detailed drawings of the square timber framing system used in the mines, the Empire Mill plan, the cross section drawings of a gold mill, a head frame and ore skip, a wood ore bin, floor plans of hoist houses, a small timber ore bin at the head frame and a two deck man cage and material cage for a vertical shaft operation. (In other words here is everything you need to create a perfect mining scene - but many of the dimensions are difficult to read.)

All in all this is a valuable reference source for my modeling library. The fact that it is about mines that operated right here in PCR, and was written and published in our region is a special plus. The book is available from Paradise Publishers, Suite 688, 433 Town Center, Corte Madera, CA 94925 for $11.95 per copy plus $2.00 shipping and handling. California residents must also add sales tax. Credit cards are accepted and orders can be mailed, placed by phone to (415)924-4652 or faxed to (415)924-0485.

Made in the PCR is a regular *Branch Line* article featuring products made within the Pacific Coast Region - permiting us to know a bit more about local companies and products. Please consider writing a review of a locally produced product. Manufacturers should see if one of your customers would be interested in submitting a review.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

by Bob Ferguson

A constant reminder: 36+7=43

This formula is crucial to those members who are paying NMRA and PCR dues for themselves and one family member. Since the last issue of the Branchline, I have received three dues payments where 36+7=42.

Did you receive your NMRA return address labels and stickers? If you did, and you like them, did you respond positively to the donation request? Those stickers and labels were not produced for free; they are an incentive to solicit donations from the membership to keep our headquarters office in good repair. If you didn't send in a donation, please consider doing so-the HQ office needs to be maintained.

To those of you who have renewed since March of this year, did you receive your punchout membership card in good condition? I get some renewal cards back that look like they went through the postal laundry system, so I'm concerned that the cards are being received in good condition.

If you are a new member of the NMRA and joined by paying your dues directly to the PCR, your first PCR membership card will not have your NMRA number printed on it since I cannot assign that number. It will appear on your NMRA card and your first renewal PCR card.

Summer is a slow time of the year for membership, so I encourage everyone to look around for that one new member to sign up to help keep this organization healthy and growing. Send those membership applications directly to me. My address is in the CALLBOARD on Page 2 of every issue of the Branch Line.

VALLEY ZEPHYR '98

An exciting Convention is once again in store for the PCR in 1998. An outstanding location has been found and the host hotel will be the DoubleTree Hotel in Modesto. A room registration form appears below. On the facing page is a convention registration form and on page 14 you will find a list of the special tours we will have available during the convention, including a train ride and barbecue at Jamestown and tours of the Union Pacific, the M&ET and the ST&E. These will be in addition to a full array of clinics, never before visited layouts, contests, sales show and lots of great camaraderie.

Address Correction: The Valley Zephyr registration forms distributed at the Bakersfield convention had an incorrect address. If you had your registration form returned by the Post Office, please resubmit that form to the correct address:

Valley Zephyr 98
PO Box 8398
Woodland, CA 95776-8398

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Above Left: Valley Zephyr Convention Car is a prototypically acurate model which will be available in six different road numbers.
Photo by Donald Schmidt

Above: Richard Klammer reviews the display for the 1998 PCR Convention.
Photo by Dave Connery

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
MODESTO

Name _____

Sharing with _____

Sharing with _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Guest room reservations will be held until 6 pm, day of arrival, unless this reservation request is accompanied by one of the following: (Please check one)

☐ First night's deposit in the amount of the guest room rate, plus 9% rooms tax, enclosed.

☐ Major Credit Card: (Please check one)
☐ American Express ☐ Diner's Club
☐ Master Card ☐ Carte Blanche
☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

FOR FURTHER RESERVATION ASSISTANCE, CALL 209/526-6000 or 800/222-TREE

Arrival Date _____ Time _____
Check-In is after 3:00 pm, day of arrival.

Departure Date _____ Time _____
Check-Out time is prior to Noon, day of departure.

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, SIERRA DIVISION, PACIFIC COAST REGION
April 28, 1998 – May 3, 1998

Please indicate guest room accommodations requested:

GUEST ROOM:
☐ KING BED
☐ TWO QUEEN BEDS

☐ SMOKING ☐ NON-SMOKING ☐ ROLLAWAY ($10.00 per day) ☐ CRIB (no charge)

Guest room rates are based upon one to four persons per guest room, per night.

☐ SINGLE OCCUPANCY	☐ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	☐ TRIPLE OCCUPANCY	☐ QUAD OCCUPANCY
$85.00	$85.00	$85.00	$85.00

Guest room reservations must be received by April 1, 1998. All reservations received after this date are based upon guest room and group rate availability. Guest room accommodation requests are subject to availability. No charge for children under the age of 18 sharing the same guest room as parents. All deposits are refundable upon 24 hour notice prior to arrival date. 9% rooms tax is applicable on all guest room reservations. Complimentary 24 hour hotel shuttle available to/from Modesto Airport.

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
MODESTO

Attn: Reservations
1150 9th Street
Modesto, CA 95354

VALLEY ZEPHYR 98

1998 PCR Convention
Modesto, California
April 29-May 3, 1998

RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
Ed Pultz, Registrar
Valley Zephyr 98
P. O. Box 8398
Woodland, CA 95776-8398

PRIMARY REGISTRANT	Committee Use
LAST NAME	PCR NO.
FIRST NAME	NMRA NO.
STREET ADDRESS	NMRA REGION(IF OTHER THAN PCR)
CITY	
STATE	REGISTRATION TYPE: [ ] RAIL
ZIP CODE	[ ] NON-RAIL/RAILETTE [ ] YOUTH
TELEPHONE	SCALE(S):

ADDITIONAL REGISTRANTS LIVING AT SAME ADDRESS
(Rail, Non-Rail, Youth)

LAST NAME	COMMITEE USE	REGISTRATION TYPE: [ ] RAIL
FIRST NAME	NMRA NO. PCR NO. SCALE(S):	[ ] NON-RAIL/RAILETTE [ ] YOUTH
LAST NAME	COMMITTEE USE	REGISTRATION TYPE: [ ] RAIL
FIRST NAME	NMRA NO. PCR NO. SCALE(S):	[ ] NON-RAIL/RAILETTE [ ] YOUTH

☐ *Check box at left if you are attending your first convention and/or would like additional information on how to attend and enjoy a convention.*

FARES (Turn Page Over For More Fares)

EVENT	TOTAL	FEE (EACH)	TOTAL FEE
BASE REGISTRATION		$50	
YOUTH REGISTRATION(12-18 YEARS, STUDENT) (UNDER 12 FREE, WITH PARENT)		$25	
IF NOT A PCR/NMRA MEMBER PER REGISTRANT, (In addition to the $50 Base Registration). DO NOT USE THIS ITEM FOR SPOUSE - USE BASE REGISTRATION		$36	
One Day Registration - Wed Thur Fri Sat		$25	
	Total From Reverse		
Make Check Payable to "Valley Zephyr 98"	GRAND TOTAL		

EXPLANATION OF EXTRA FARE ACTIVITIES

JAMESTOWN BAR-BE-CUE AND TRAIN RIDE. The Saturday bar-be-cue and train ride at the Jamestown Railtown Museum replaces the banquet. The $25 price includes the bar-be-cue, a train ride on the Sierra Railroad, and admission to the museum. Separate bar-be-cue tickets are available for $17 and train/museum tickets are available for $10.

HOBO BREAKFAST: All PCR Hobos are invited to attend the Saturday morning Buffet breakfast at the Double Tree Hotel.

SUNDAY MEETING & BREAKFAST. The annual meeting at the Double Tree Hotel will be held after a traditional buffet breakfast.

UNION PACIFIC TOUR. The Union Pacific Prototype Tour will feature stops at intermodal yard, UP's Stockton Tower, and the Model Railroad Club at the San Joaquin County Fairgrounds. A box lunch is included in the $15 price.

M&ET and ST&E PROTOTYPE TOUR. The Modesto & Empire Traction and Stockton Terminal tour will include stops at the M&ET Engine Terminal, M&ET's intermodal facility and the ST&E's facility in Stockton. A box lunch is included in the $15 price.

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM and OLD SACRAMENTO TOUR. A bus will take you to Old Sacramento, where you can shop, eat lunch, or visit the railroad museum (purchase admission tickets at the museum).

HO SOUVENIR GRAIN CAR. The HO scale souvenir car is an Intermountain Railway Company Pullman Standard 4750 cubic foot covered hopper custom painted for Foster Farms. Six different numbers are available. Pre-convention price include sales tax. The single car price is $15; multiple car purchases are available at reduced prices shown below.

Activity or Event	No.	Fee(Each)	Total Fee
Jamestown Bar-be-cue and Train Ride		$25	
Hobo Breakfast		$8	
Sunday Breakfast		$8	
Union Pacific Tour (Includes lunch)		$15	
M&ET and ST&E Tour (Includes lunch)		$15	
California State Railroad Museum & Old Sac Tour		$10	
Convention Pin		$4	
Convention Patch		$4	
Jamestown Bar-be-cue Only		$17	
Train Ride and Jamestown Museum		$10	
HO Souvenir Intermountain Grain Car with six different numbers: $15 each, 2/$27, 3/$40, 4/$52, 5/$64, and 6/$75 (tax included)			
Bring Total Amount Forward to Front Page			

PCR BOD MTG. NOTES

The Board met on April 30th in Bakersfield. In attendance members Getz, Scott, Connery, Mallchok, Campagna (proxy for Austin), Wall (Proxy for Hill) and Chairpersons Ferguson, deBlieck, Showalter, Lloyd and guests David Benjamson, Barbara Wall, Doug Wagner, Billy Scott and Jim Long. President Getz proposed a Trustee Policy and code of conduct in event a Trustee should be elected that is not a PCR member. He also reported on the home office computer installation and status of items he is working on. Coast suggested PCR have Region-wide layout tours - decided to have Division Superintendents or Directors report future Division layout tours to Branch Line Editor for inclusion in advance of event. Daylight moved that PCR find a way for Region and PCR Conventions use a credit card - motion tabled while Getz and Altbaum investigate. Treasurers report showed we remain solvent, this past year was even despite a $1,000 donation to NMRA through cost reductions and improved interest income and despite membership losses. Budget will be finalized when Larry gets back from vacation and approval will be sought from Board via phone vote. Membership reported a new renewal card, new bar coding requirements for mailing and need to use 1st class for mailings to Hawaii. Wall announced a $2 NMRA dues increase in September. Showalter apologized for late ballots and asked that each Division appoint a Nominating Chair for her to work with. Election was certified and approval given to destroy ballots. Connery announced the existence of PCR Web Site and received approval to move ahead with PCR Hobby Directory. DeBlieck reviewed coming conventions and announced plan to hold a mini-convention in 2000 in spring over a weekend at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont. Bill Scott agreed to see if fall BOD meeting could be coordinated with a Daylight meet in Santa Barbara in mid-November.

Model Contest winners at Bakersfield recieving their awards, from the left, Ray Smith, Mac Gaddis, Bob Warner, Cinthia Priest, Stephen Priest and Bob Hyman. Congratulations to all the model and photo contest winners. Photo by Dave Connery

Glen Joesten teaches soldering techniques to a rapt audience. Photo by Rod Smith

WELCOME to the PCR Home Page

Yes, the PCR is now wired and on the net, thanks to PCR Webmaster Larry Moseley. After our request for help in the Jan-Mar '97 Branch Line, Larry called and offered to create a home page for the PCR on the World Wide Web. I think Larry has done a wonderful job putting our web site together and I urge you to take a look at it. To do so you will need access to the Internet. If you don't yet have a connection at home, your local library probably has one you can use and the library staff can show you how to log on. The URL (address) of the PCR Home Page is:

http://www.hooked.net/~lwm/pcr/pcr.htm

From our Home Page you can link to a list of activities in PCR, view the latest issue of the Branch Line, link to PCR layouts that have their own home page (if you know of any we have missed please let either Larry Moseley or Dave Connery know - see the Callboard on page 2 to contact us), get an application to join PCR, get to meet your PCR leaders, learn about the five divisions that comprise our region and find out about the PCR Achievement program. In the near future there will be a link to information about PCR conventions, the NMRA 2000 convention and PCR contests.

After you have had a chance to view the site, give Larry or myself some feedback with your ideas about what should be included or how we could cover things so they are easier to understand. But please don't keep our web site a secret. Suggest your friends or fellow club members take a look and if you know of someone who might be interested in joining the PCR, have them surf the site and perhaps print out the membership application. The site will regularly change so you might want to bookmark it for easy future access.

Authors and Contributors note: Next Deadline is SEPTEMBER 15 for the OCTOBER ISSUE

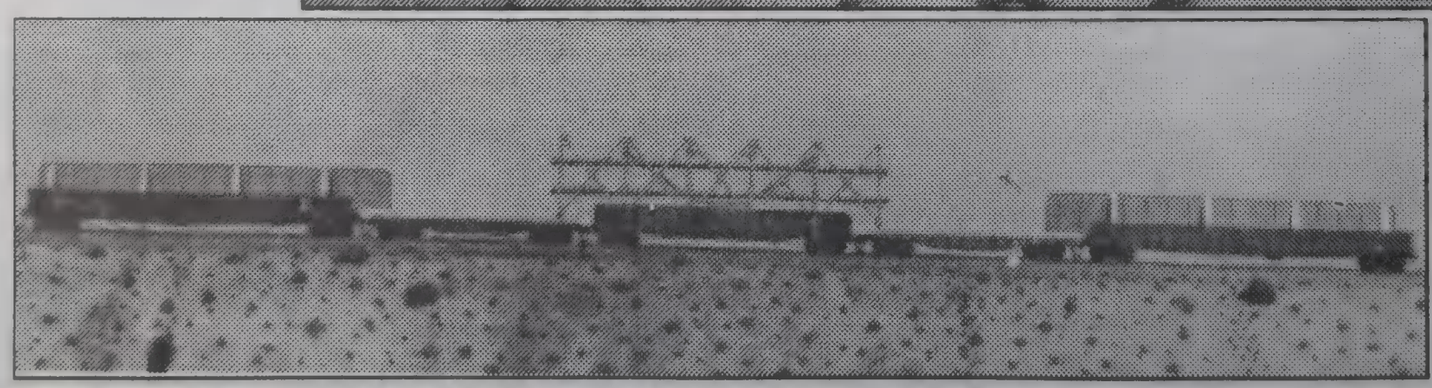
RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET

Photos and captions by Richard Hendrickson

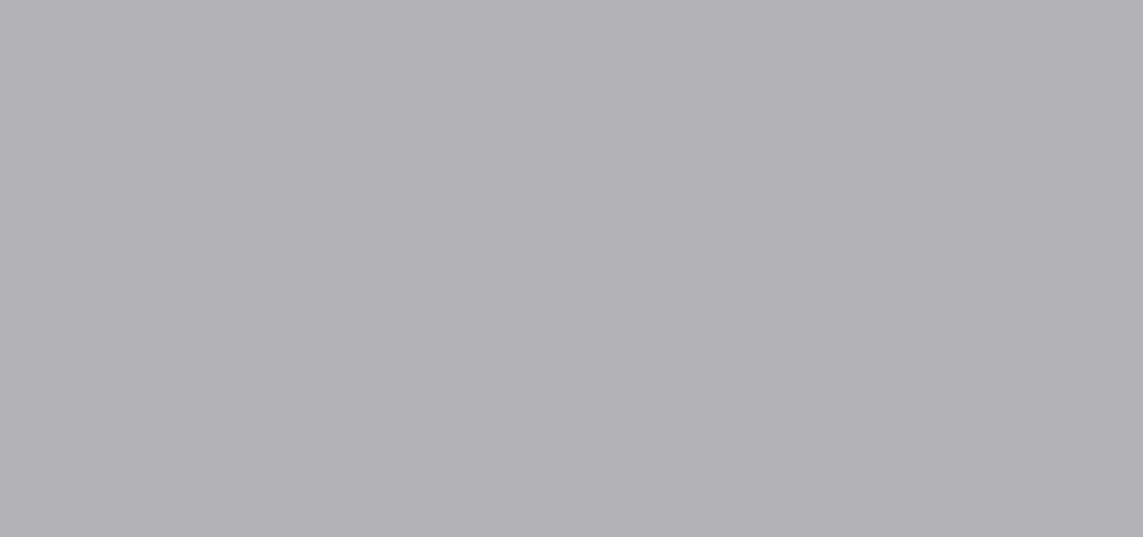
The Railroad Prototype Modelers had a very well attended meet during the PCR Convention in Bakersfield in May. On these two pages and on pages 4, 5 & 9 of this issue are some photos of the wonderful models on display at the meet. We hope to share more RPM Meet photos in the next issue of the Branch Line.

Left: Jeffrey Sipress extensively detailed, painted, lettered, and weathered this realistically grimy model of a Southern Pacific GP-40-2, which began life as an Athern kit.

Right: The Santa Fe extensively rebuilt some of its General Electric "U-Boats'" converting them to what the railroad designated as SF-30Cs. Charlie Slater, a Santa Fe trainman from Bakersfield extensively modified an Athern Kit as the basis for this model of an SF-30C with a Kodachrome paint scheme.

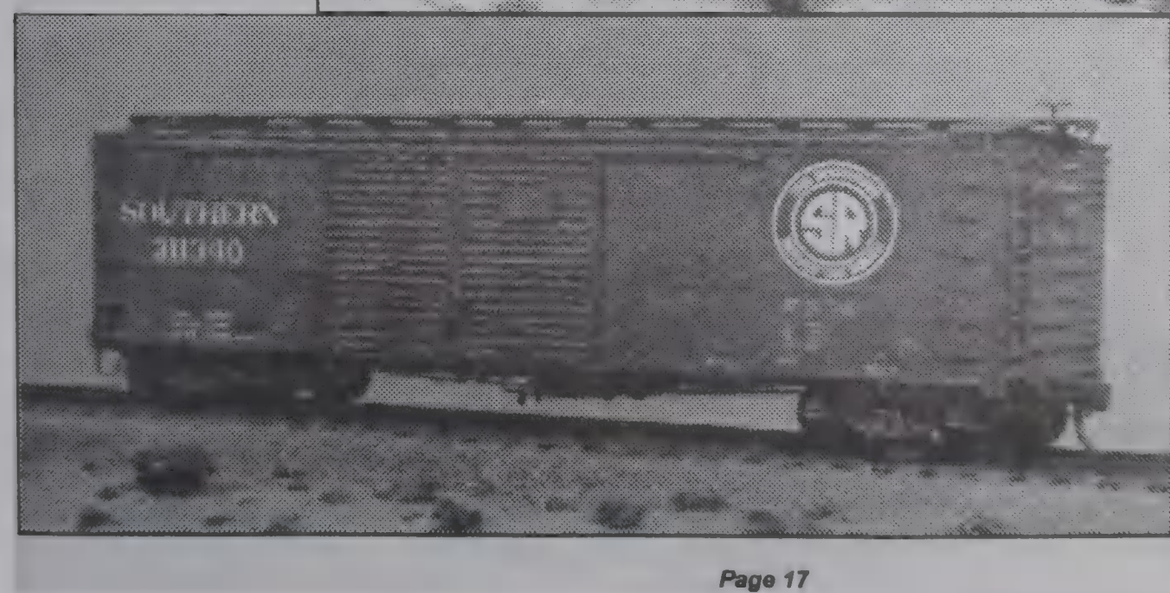


Richard Hendrickson built this string of cars carrying the parts for a through girder bridge. The center gondola is from a Life-Like Proto 2000 kit, the long mill gons at either end are custom-painted and lettered Precision Scale brass imports, the idler flats are from Red Caboose kits, and the bridge parts are by Central Valley.



Left: David Hussey modeled this RTTX trailer flat and container / trailers by extensively modifying an Athern kit. The trailer chassis and containers were kitbashed from Athern and Walthers origins.

Right: Scott Pitzer modeled this Illinois Central gondola from a Detail Associates kit and scratchbuilt its realistic scrap metal load. The prototype was originally a drop bottom gondola which the IC rebuilt with a solid floor.



Left: This model of a Southern double door wood sheathed auto car was built from a Sunshine resin kit by Bill Welch.

PCR 1997 CONVENTION
"Rails to the Loop"
BAKERSFIELED

The Bakersfield convention was the usual great deal of fun with a number of very special events to make it memorable to all who attended. On the next several pages are some photos of a few of the events and activities that took place during "Rails to the Loop". We hope to feature additional coverage of the convention in future issues of the Branch Line. Hats off to Doug Wagner and his able crew (Kevin Jung, Tammie Wagner, Darrell Dennis, Ed Liesse, Brewster Bird, Bob Randall, Mike Hayes, Chuck Harmon, Debbie Joyner, Dick and Evelyn Bloom.

Above: With Gary Wilson looking on, the ever faithful Allan Fenton brought the Timesaver swithcing contest and spent much of his convention time montoring the switchmen as they tried to make the right moves to win a ribbon. Fenton received the Coast Member of the Year award at the Banquet. Photo by Rod Smith

Left: Kevin Jung and Doug Wagner, Vice-Chairman and Chairman respectively of the "Rails to the Loop" Convention Committee. Photo by Dave Connery

Jim Providenza, left, and Dave Biondi, right, showed us how to paint effective backdrops with no anxiety. Well, very little anyway. Here their student (victim) Norm Morris masters the wrist motion needed to simulate trees along the ridge line. A clinic well worth the time. Photo by Rod Smith

CONVENTION CAR SALE
1994
PACIFIC COAST GOLD

Athern 50' Mechanical Reefer
with Pacific Coast Gold Logo
HO Scale
$7.00 + .58 sales tax
Postage Paid
Unlimited quantities to PCR Members
while they last

Send request with check for $7.58 per ca
to:
Bob Ferguson
530 Fig Tree Lane
Martinez, CA 94553

The Branch Line is looking for articles about model railroading, both how-to and news items. A great way to help your fellow modelers and earn credit toward your Model Railroad Author certificate.

Above: The wonderful Liesse family, from left to right Ken, Ed and Gay, were always ready to help at the Registration Booth throughout the convention. At the Awards Banquet, Ed and Gay were presented the Presidents Award by President Charlie Getz. Photo by Dave Connery

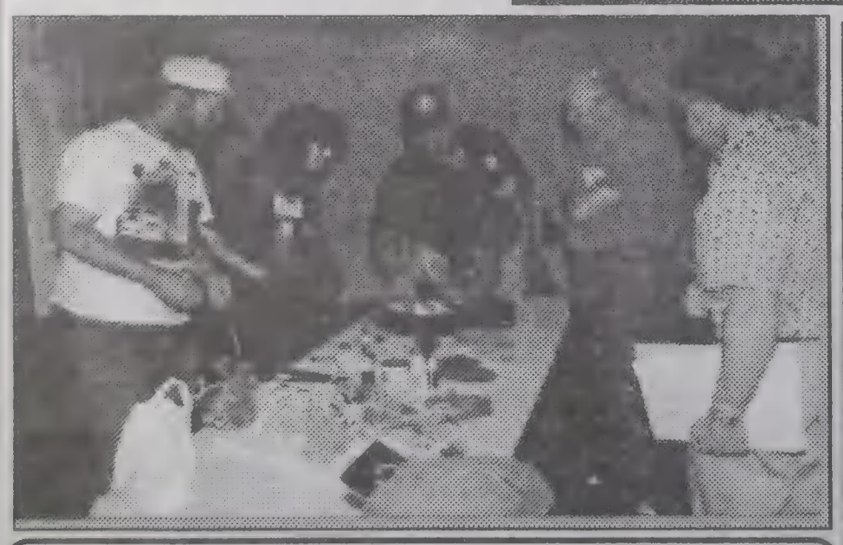
There was a never ending parade of trains on the Santa Fe directly behind the convention hotel and with many convention attendees getting rooms on the train side of the hotel, we could railfan while we dressed! What a time in history this is as a wide array of paint schemes were in evidence. This set of photos shows a single power movement led by SF Bluebonnet, then a BNSF post merger, then Conrail (pool power?), SF Warbonnet, SF Bluebonnet, leased power (LMX?), two more SF Bluebonnets and a BN in green and black. Photos by Lisa Gorrell

A MODEL RAILROADERS STORY

On Sunday the last day of the Bakersfield Convention, PCR Convention Chairman Ray deBlieck and fellow PCR member Ray Smith took a trip up to the Tehachapi Loop. Ray had stuffed some bills into his pocket after checking out of the hotel. While at Tehachapi he had to change film and while pulling a fresh roll out of his pocket, he apparently also pulled out a $50 bill which fell unnoticed to the ground. It was not until they were back in Bakersfield that he discovered the loss. While at Tehachapi he had seen Cindy Winters also doing some railfanning. On Monday, while talking to Cindy on the phone, Ray remarked that he would be happy to include Cindy in a Layout Design SIG Meeting if she had the $50- he lost at Tehachapi the previous day. Cindy said, "Oh was that yours! I'll send you a check." Model railroaders are really special people, and thank you Cindy Winters, for being a really special model railroader.

Harry Hass hauls a train load of happy conventioneers around on his 1 1/2" scale line which was included in the Tehachapi Loop tours. Photo by Lisa Gorrell

Joel Bragdon intently pours casting resin into a mold he has just made in one of the three different clinics Joel presented. As chief spokesman for Bragdon Enterprises, Joel put on an incredible 10 hours of clinics during the regular convention plus giving regular demonstrations of his techniques during the Train Show.
Photo by Dave Connery



Charlie and Babette Piggot, at left, gave a clinic showing how to make some of the finest oak trees you will ever see. If you missed it, though, don't despair. Charlie sells them as Charlies Okey-Dokey Oaks, and they aren't expensive, either. "Now where's my coil of rope?" Photo by Rod Smith

Frank Richter provided a very interesting tour of the Tehachapi Loop. Photo by Lisa Gorrell

John Boersma is having fun running trains on his extensive layout with "Knock your socks off" backdrops, since John is a retired Hanna-Barbera cartoonist. While visiting Johns layout, we had the awesome experience of having 9 long trains zipping around the room simultaneously on John's over 1300 feet of track.
Photo by Dave Connery

PCR President Charlie Getz inspects the sand dome on Harry Haas 1 1/2" live steam model of Rio Grande #476. Perhaps it is true members of the Attorney General's staff are always looking for some sand to stick their head into, as some opposing attorneys have suggested!
Photo by Lisa Gorrell

21st CENTURY LIMITED HELP WANTED

LAYOUTS - The Committee for the NMRA convention in 2000 are interested in learning about layouts that are or will be complete enough to include on layout tours during the summer of 2000 at the San Jose Convention. If you have a layout or know of one that would be a good candidate for inclusion in tours please let us know. Contact Dave Connery, Outside Activities Chairman, 3408 Lanai Drive., San Ramon, CA 94583 (510) 735-0134.

PUBLICITY EXPERIENCE - If you have publicity experience or know of someone who does who would be willing to join with our Convention Publicity Committee in developing a Publicity and Promotion Plan please contact Chuck Harmon, 1644 E. Goshen, Fresno, CA 93729 (209) 299-4385 or via e-mail at Harmonsta@aol.com.

21st CENTURY LIMITED

S A N J O S E , C A

N M R A 2 0 0 0

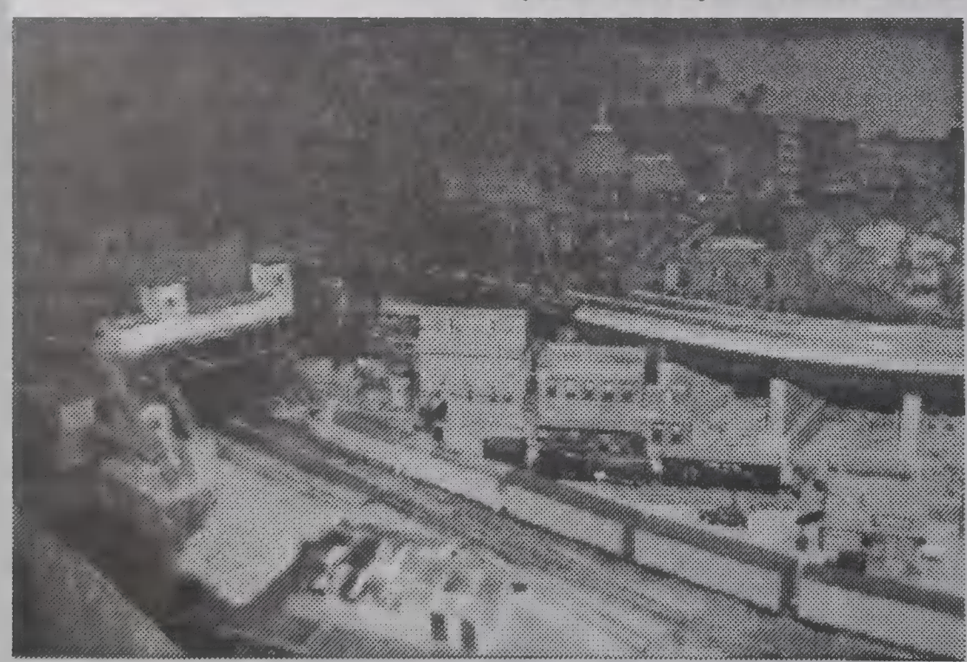
Al Funk's Kern Valley Eastern

Up in the mountains east of Bakersfield, on a breezy hilltop in Bodfish high above Lake Isabella is a most wonderful model railroad, The Kern Valley Eastern. This is the creation of very talented modeler Al Funk. As you enter the 20' X 25' room in a separate building housing the layout you are immediately confronted with a scene that looks very familiar - the town of Port from John Allen's well known Gorre & Daphetid layout. From that moment on you are drawn into a magnificent HO and HOn3 world that is crammed full of interesting scenes and exquisite structures. While not an exact replica of the G&D, the inspiration for this layout is unmistakable. It is a layout you could spend hours pouring over all the details and just getting familiar with the track plan. The many levels of railroad, crossing high bridges and trestles and transporting trains back and fourth as they climb ever upward around the dynamic scenery, some stretching from floor to near the ceiling make this a delight for every visitor.

The layout includes over 1000' of standard gauge track, 300' of narrow gauge track and a considerable length of dual gauge track.

Al Funk poses in front of a control panel, from which he operated his 20' X 25, Kern Valley Eastern during this years Bakersfield Convention. Photo by Rod Smith

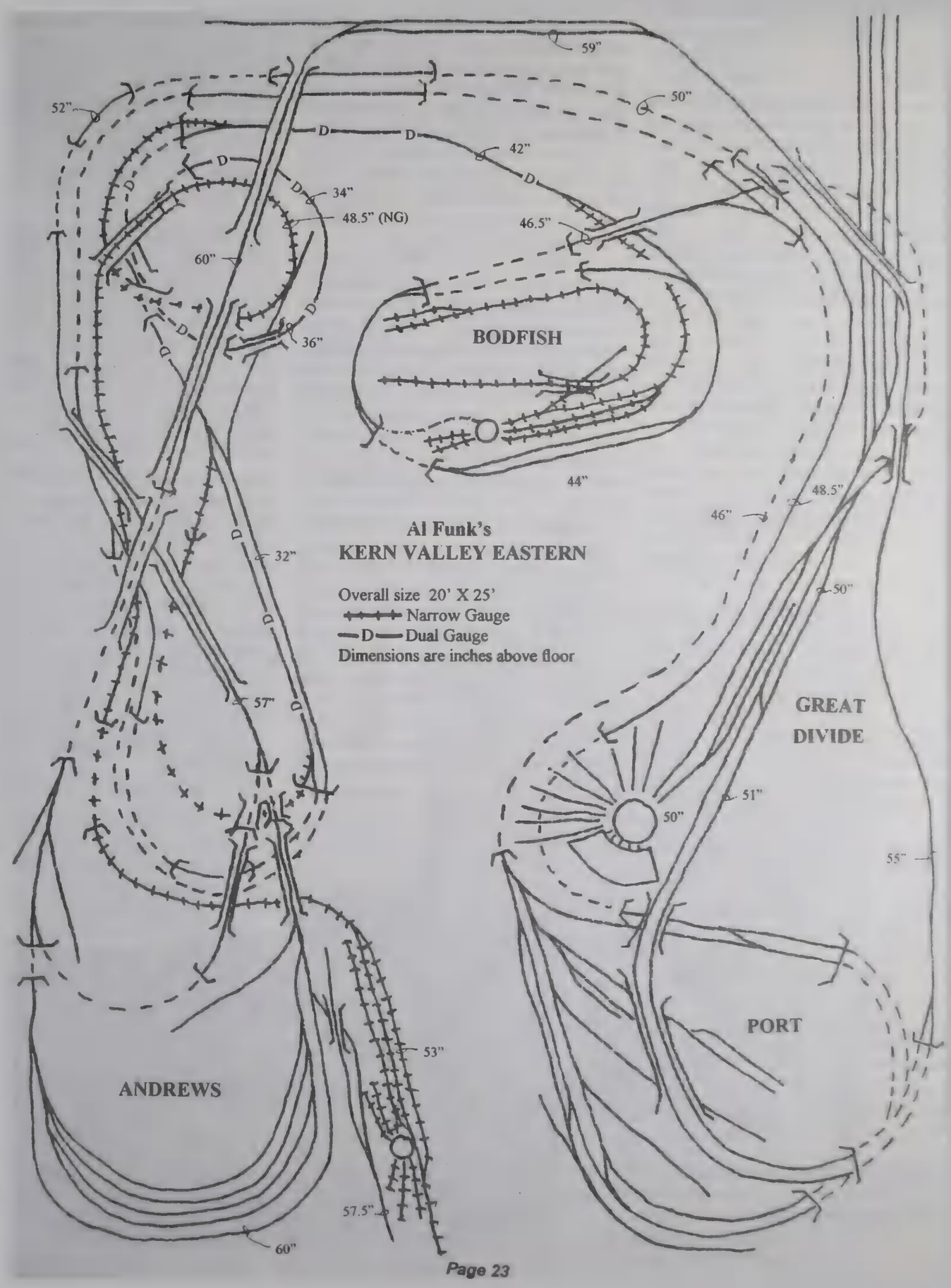
Current operation is by cab control, with five cabs strategically located around the layout (two mainline cabs, a narrow gauge / branch line cab and cabs for Port, Andrews and Great Divide. The local cabs have priority with relays that switch all 19 blocks and turnouts to the mainline cabs. The steam sound system is by Magofin. Al and his son Ron have recently begun testing the MRC Digital Command Control system and plan to eventually convert all locomotives to this system for improved operating possibilities. This will be a major task, as there are presently 17 standard gauge brass steam locomotives (a Great Northern M2, 2 Decapods, 5 Pacifics, 3 Michados, 4 Ten Wheelers, an Atlantic and a Climax). Al also has 13 diesels, a plastic Shay and on the narrow gauge are 2 Shays, 3 K-27s, 2 K-38s, a T-12 and a C-16 - all brass. The roster also boasts about 200 freight cars and about 25 passenger cars.



One of the scenes as you enter Al Funk's great layout inspired by the Gorre and Daphetid and masterfully crafted by Al. Photo by Rod Smith

Most of the backdrop was painted by Al's wife before she passed away and adds greatly to the feel of the layout. The structures are beautifully done, mostly scratchbuilt, some are kitbashed - even from Finescale Miniature kits. Each structure is carefully incorporated into the surrounding scenery and through out the layout highly detailed scenes have been created that make the layout come alive for visitors. If you didn't attend the Convention in Bakersfield or missed seeing Al's incredible layout you missed one very exciting model railroad.

The *Branch Line* is seeking PCR layouts that would make an interesting review article. We would like a description, drawing of the track plan and a few photographs. This is an opportunity to highlight layouts that have not been covered in the national magazines or perhaps are still under construction.


Al Funk's
KERN VALLEY EASTERN
Overall size 20' X 25'
Narrow Gauge
D Dual Gauge
Dimensions are inches above floor
BODFISH
GREAT DIVIDE
PORT
ANDREWS
59"
52"
50"
42"
34"
48.5" (NG)
46.5"
60"
36"
44"
48.5"
46"
32"
50"
57"
51"
50"
55"
53"
57.5"
60"

WAY FREIGHT (DIVISION REPORTS)

COAST DIVISION

by Rod Smith

On June 1, One hundred fifty-seven members and friends of the Coast Division met in Richmond for the quarterly meet. Three excellent clinics were presented. John Morrison's clinic titled "The Mighty Electron" explained electrical matters of concern to modelers, and was well received by those attending. Then John Marshall gave his clinic, "Yards and Yards of YARDS", and showed us slides of the many yards, large and small, which currently exist in the Richmond area. Some have real modeling potential, as they consist of only a few tracks, are compact, not necessarily straight, and serve specialized purposes. Thanks to both John's for their support. After the business meet, our Membership Chairman Ted Culotta presented his "Getting Rolling" clinic which serves new members at the meet. Even if you've been a member a while, Ted's clinic will help you get maximum enjoyment from your membership. Thank's Ted.

During the business meeting, PCR President Charlie Getz distributed some of the 25 and 50 year member certificates he received from NMRA headquarters. Coast has a surprising number of members with this much longevity! He also announced the Presidents awards from the Bakersfield convention were awarded to Coast members Jim Tangney, Ed Liesse, and Gay Liesse. Jim is a Master Model Railroader and past PCR Vice President, and both Ed and Gay Liesse handled registration at Bakersfield, as well as Chairing the Palo Alto convention in 1995. Ed is also a regular at Coast Div. meets and is past Superintendent. Congratulations to all three. We are sorry to see Ed and Gay leaving for Seattle, but look forward to seeing them at conventions in the future. Other awards going to Coast members included Bob Ferguson receiving the coveted John Allen award, and Alan Fenton was recognized as the Coast Division Member of the Year.

Ray DeBlieck, Chairman of the 2000 National Convention '21st Century Limited' updated us on preparations for the convention and solicited additional volunteers. Can YOU help with this project. Many hands will make light work for everyone (except Ray, who is totally responsible!) Also, John Marshall, Clinics Chair, requested help from anyone interested in presenting a clinic to the members. Remember, you earn points toward the Model Railroad Author Achievement certificate for giving a clinic. How about it. Contact John by phone or at the next meet. It was announced that PCR has a web page up and running. You will find the URL listed elsewhere in this Branch Line.

This was the first meet where the snackbar was staffed by the Rainbow Girls. It sure looked as though they will carry on the fine menu we have long enjoyed from the East Bay Model Engineers, as well as some new items of their own choosing. It's great the Rainbow Girls have taken on this important part of our meets, and everyone is encouraged to get your snacks from them. They are friendly; let us be as well!

The regular auction had about 600 items of all scales, plus there was an Estate auction of another 200 items. Everything from brass locomotives to cars, track, books, tools, ad infinitum. If it has ever been on the market, you can bet it will show up in a Coast Division auction. Bill Burket and his staff on the Auction Committee made it all run smoothly, and efficiently. Ken Lass had arranged for three layouts to be open for attendees enjoyment. Thanks to the East Bay Model Engineers Society, Bob Wirthlin, and Earl Vasconcellos for opening their layouts. They had to skip some of the auction to get home in preparation for us to come by. Door prizes were distributed to the holders of those tickets drawn. There were 4 O scale prizes, 8 HO, and 6 N. And the raffle was won by Ed Bingle and Jack Brown. Congratulations to all the winners.

Coast's next meet will be September 7 in Santa Clara. Information and address appears in Region Train Orders and on the Division and Club Activities pages of this Branch Line. The contest at the September meet will be another popular vote one. This time the categories will be Reefers and Vehicles. How about honing your modeling skills and bringing an entry in Sept.? It's more fun with lots of entries.

Hope to see a group of Coast folks at the National convention in Madison. These nationals are a lot of fun, and a great learning experience. And with the 2000 one coming in only three years, it's a good chance to observe how a national works so ours will be one of the top conventions. Remember San Mateo's Western Fun in 81?? That was the last National here in the Bay Area. Before that, it was San Francisco, way back in 68. But for now, reserve Sept. 7 on your calendar for the next super colossal Coast Division meet. See you there!

The OMRS boxcar with logo displayed on filled freight door space.
photo by Phil Chase

SIERRA DIVISION

by Gene Mayer

Interim Superintendent Ray Keener has agreed to take on the job permanently. Ray hopes to revitalize the division by scheduling division meets a year in advance so meetings can be publicized far enough ahead to attract greater attendance.

Director Dennis Hill presented the Sierra Division Member of the Year Award to Steve Geisenheimer of Turlock during the Convention banquet in Bakersfield. Steve has become very active in division activities during the past two or three years. He is serving on the 1998 PCR Convention Committee, has participated in the Division's model and photo contests and worked at International Railfair. Steve is a very deserving recipient of the award.

Life member Ernest Elmore passed away on April 29th. His brother Harold learned of Ernie's death during the convention in Bakersfield and advised his friends of the fact. Ernest and his wife Arlita, a former PCR Secretary/Treasurer, both contributed a great deal of time and effort to Sierra Division and PCR activities in prior years. In recent years they became more interested in doll collecting and computer games. Hopefully Arlita, who is also a life member, will come see us at future Division meets.

Former NMRA President Paul Shimada has retired from the Natomas School District and farming. Paul just can't stop working with the kids and he now volunteers two or three days per week to work with problem children. He is also very active with the charitable activities of Rotary International.

REDWOOD EMPIRE DIVISION

No report received.

DAYLIGHT DIVISION

No report received

HAWAIIAN DIVISION

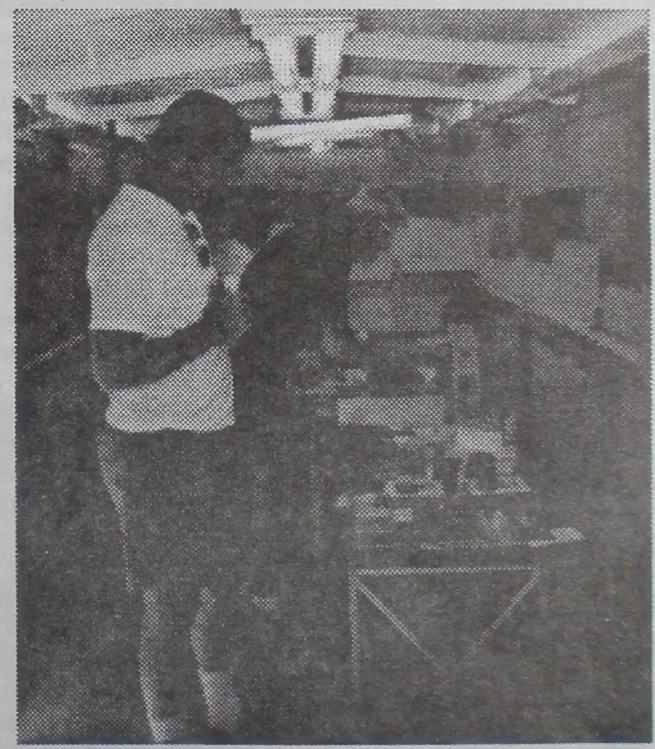
by Judith Mallchok

To say that Hawaiian Railroaders are an independent lot, and that our organization is loosely knit, is probably a gross understatement. A large number of our railroaders seem to head for the mainland during the summer (it's too cold any other time of the year), so although there is little to report as a Division, our modelers have been busy.

The Ohau club, OMRS, hosted RAILFEST '97 at their newly renovated boxcar. An auction and picnic complemented the viewing of the layout in progress. The original 3' gauge boxcar was used to haul Navy ammunition to Pearl Harbor. When the club started working it was, according to them, "fire and rust ravaged." It is 36 feet long and the inside width is just over 7 feet. The benchwork and air conditioning are in place, and the backdrop is now being painted by Tiare Sneidar, a Sorbonne trained artist and the OMRS President's wife, who was "volunteered." Called the "St. Charles & West Ridge RR" it will run on three levels, a staging level, and industrial level and a long run mountain division. Their custom reefer sales are helping to fund this ambitious project.

On the Big Island, parts 1 and 2 of Boone Morrison's article on his fantastic North Coast Narrow Gauge Line were featured in the Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette. If you don't believe we have modelers out here, check these articles out. Boone was awarded Achievement Awards for both Cars and Scenery at the PCR Convention in Bakersfield.

Thanks to the generous support of the PCR, the Hawaiian Division is again publishing the Division Newsletter, "The Drawbar." The first new issue went out in May and should continue Quarterly. Being so far removed from each other, and other modelers, a newsletter is the best way to pass along information and stay in touch.



George Joy, Sid Sneidar and Mike Behnke check progress during Railfest '97 in OMRS boxcar

Photo by Phil Chase

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

by Dave Connery

As you may have noticed, this issue of the Branch Line is a few weeks later than usual - a delay that is mostly my fault. My wife, Emma, and I took a 5+ week vacation to Scandinavia and Russia during the period I would normally finish editing this issue. Actually I am drafting this editorial while we are still in Europe, knowing I'll have no extra time once we get back home.

We have been traveling exclusively by rail and ferry and it has been a real eye-opener. While we've traveled by rail in Europe before, this trip we have used rail travel much more intensively. We purchased Scan Rail Passes before departing and have had almost complete freedom to travel about. Often there is about a $2 seat reservation fee in the inter-city trains and approximately and a $40 to $50 surcharge for sleeping accommodations when we have used over night trains. If you have not yet tried it and ever get the opportunity to visit Europe - by all means get a rail pass, it is an exceptional way to get around. Relax, enjoy the scenery and step out right in the middle of town refreshed and ready to begin your visit.

There is a wonderful heritage of rail travel in Europe and trains go just about everywhere, they are scheduled at frequent intervals and are virtually always on time to the minute. I had the opportunity to visit the Danish National Railway Museum in Odense, the Swedish National Museum in Gavale and the Norwegian National Railway Museum in Hamar. Each shows the great pride these nations maintain in their railroads. Each of these museums includes historic pieces of equipment dating back to before 1850, while at the same time high speed inter-city trains whiz by outside. At three locations I happened upon operating steam locomotives, a meter (narrow) gauge line at the Norwegian Museum, a tourist line in Bergen and a standard gauge excursion train in Denmark.

It is a superb experience for a railfan to ride on European rails, and you even may meet a model railroading friend. While walking through a back alley in the Hanseatic section of Bergen, Norway I had someone tap me on the shoulder and say "Hi Dave". I turned around and there was fellow PCR member Bob Warren with a big smile. What a wonderful thing to meet a modeling friend half-way around the world.

The more I see of European railroads the more I wonder why more North American modelers don't model European rail lines. One look in the Walthers Catalog will provide you with assurances there is plenty of equipment available. Interestingly, many (most) of the train stations we stopped at in Scandinavia had a glass enclosed model railroad that can be operated by depositing a coin. These are quite well done models - and while not at our contest quality, they are complete, well scenicked, reasonably complex and operate flawlessly and are more fully detailed with a greater range of relief than many home layouts I have visited here in our country.

Perhaps because in Europe most trains and structures are provided ready-to-run or shake-the-box the idea of a highly detailed craftsman effort that is prototypically correct has escaped many of us (except of course Scott Maze who keeps right on producing 1st place winners in PCR and NMRA contests building British prototype steam locomotives in O scale.)

Let me assure you I have seen miles and miles of scenery (most notably in Switzerland, Austria and in Norway between Oslo and Bergen and on the "Flam Line) that are more scenically spectacular than anything I have seen here in North America. There is no end of interesting structures to scratchbuild (and lots of wood structures as well as brick and stone - many with corrugated metal roofs along with the tile and slate). Then there are the complete lines of plastic structures available that with a careful paint job and some added details and weathering (yes, buildings and equipment do weather in Europe - but most items have been better maintained and more lovingly cared for there than we are used to seeing) could be made to look very realistic.

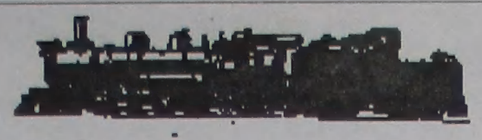
From an operational standpoint - I doubt if there are many here who could replicate on a layout the very high density of traffic and split second timing involved in the many train meets and passes that occur thousands of times a day in Europe. Another feature of European rails is that except for the largest cities, freight traffic flows right through the passenger stations and alongside crowded platforms (something we are likely to do on our layouts but rarely see happening on today's North American lines). I watched freight trains roll through towns on track one at speed (at least 50 MPH) only to have a crack passenger train pull in on the same track **from the opposite direction** in less than 5 minutes! Sound like something we might try to do on one of our layouts?

There are some differences of course. Today many of the lines in Europe are electrified so you would have to learn how to string catenary. While Europe uses the same standard gauge (4' 8 ½") as here in North America, much of the freight cars do not employ trucks but rather employ 4 wheel wagons for cars (all passenger equipment and some especially long and heavy freight cars in Europe use trucks similar to ours). Interestingly enough, in Russia all the cars I saw employed very American looking trucks with roller bearings, however in Russia and Finland the track gauge is an unconventional 5' and would necessitate hand laying all track and rebuilding all trucks if you are a stickler for the extra 3 ½" which visually is not noticeable at all.

If you feel your modeling is getting stale and you are not looking forward to your next project, consider trying a model of a European train or structure. There are lots of books available for ideas, the Walthers Catalog is a source for both kits and materials and in PCR we have several European Modeling organizations you might want to contact (you'll see one at International Railfair in Roseville this November). The challenges of something completely new may instill a new burst of enthusiasm and you just might get hooked on a whole new kind of railroad to model.

PCR HOBBY DIRECTORY

The Pacific Coast Region will be publishing a directory of railroad related information for our area to include hobby shops, model railroad clubs, tourist trains and museums, railroad oriented restaurants and lodging sites, railfan locations, railroad scanner frequencies and possibly private layouts. Members interested in helping on this project are asked to contact the PCR Directory Chairperson, Denise Showalter, 132 Westfield Circle, Danville, CA 94526, (510) 820-4736. We especially need help identifying hobby shops, clubs and rail locations from all Divisions in the Region for inclusion.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
PACIFIC COAST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

7/97

LAST NAME: _____ **FIRST NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIPCODE:** _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **NMRA # (if a member):** _____

FAMILY MEMBER NAME(S): _____

I want to become a member of the National Model Railroad Association and the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA. I have checked below the type of membership I desire and have enclosed the proper amount in a check payable to: PCR-NMRA. I understand that membership in the Pacific Coast Region requires membership in the NMRA.

- ☐ PCR and NMRA for one year at $36.00
- ☐ PCR and NMRA for five years $175.00
- ☐ PCR and NMRA Affiliate at $21.00 (No NMRA Newsletter)
- ☐ PCR and NMRA YOUTH at $26.00
- ☐ PCR only (requires NMRA membership# above) at $6.00
- ☐ PCR only - five years (requires NMRA # above) at $25.00
- ☐ PCR Family Associate at $1.00 (Must have Regular PCR member as sponsor)
- ☐ Check here if this is a renewal PCR# _____

Life Memberships in both the NMRA and PCR are available. Contact the Member Services Chairman for actuarial quote. Send Application form and remittance to: PCR Member Services, 530 Fig Tree Lane, Martinez, CA 94553. Allow 3-6 weeks for processing.

The Golden Spike Award

The Golden Spike Award will be awarded to any NMRA member who does not hold MMR status. It will be administered by the Regional and Divisional Achievement Program Chairman under the direction of the National Achievement Program Chairman. AP regulations and definitions apply for scratchbuilt and super detailed. To qualify for the award the member must complete the following checklist, obtain the signature of the Divisional AP Chairman, or another NMRA member designated by the Divisional AP Chairman. The Divisional AP Chairman will submit the signed form to the Regional AP Chairman who will issue the Golden Spike Award Certificate.

Qualifications for the Golden Spike Award

1. Rolling stock (Motive power and cars)
   - _____ Display six (6) units of rolling stock (Scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits).

2. Model Railroad Setting (Structures and Scenery)
   - _____ Construct a minimum eight (8) square feet of layout.
   - _____ Construct five (5) structures (Scratchbuilt, craftsman or detailed commercial kits). If a module has less than five structures, additional ones separate from the scene may be used.

3. Engineering (Civil and Electrical)
   - _____ Three (3) types of trackage required (turnout, crossing, etc,). All must be properly ballasted and installed on proper roadbed. Commercial trackage may be used.
   - _____ All installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously. (Double-track main, single-track main with sidings, and block or command control).
   - _____ Provide one additional electrical feature such as powered turnouts, signaling, turnout indication lighted buildings, etc.

Member _____ NMRA# _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Scale _____ Type of Pike _____

Verification by _____ NMRA# _____

BRANCHLINE
530 FIG TREE LANE
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE
PAID
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

9807 1748 R

REGION TRAIN ORDERS

1997

July 28 - August 2
NMRA Convention, *The Lake Junction*, Madison, Wisconsin.

August
23 Daylight Division Meet, 10 AM, Charlie Pigott's home, 652 West 25th Street, Merced. (209) 723-3405.

September
7 Coast Division Meet, 9:30 AM, Buchser Middle School, Santa Clara, CA
21 RED Meeting, 1:00 PM, Nova School, Novato, CA

October
9-12 PSR '97 *Cajon Zephyr* Convention, Sheraton Suites Fairplex, Pomona, CA (909) 622-2220 or (800) 722-4065
18 Narrow Gauge Meet, Inn at Pasatiempo, Santa Cruz, $15, Jim Vail, 760 Graham Hill Rd., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
18-19 GATS, 11 AM to 5 PM Sonoma County Fair & Exposition, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa

November
8-9 INTERNATIONAL RAILFAIR, 10 am - 5 PM Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville, CA
15 PCR BOD Meeting and Daylight Meet, Santa Barbara, CA
15-16 SCMRS Showcase of Trains, Santa Rosa Christian School Gym, 950 S. Wright Rd, Santa Rosa, CA
16 RED Meeting, Vallejo Model Railroad Club, Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA
22-23 GATS, 11 AM to 5 PM Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton,
29-30 GATS 11 AM - 5 PM Reno-Sparks Convention Center, NV

December
7 Coast Division Meet, 9:30 AM Salesian High School, Richmond, CA

1998

January
3-4 GATS, 11 AM - 5 PM, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Hwy 101 & Las Positas, Santa Barbara,
24-25 GATS, 11 AM - 5 PM, California Exposition & Fairgrounds, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento

Apr 29 - May 3
Valley Zephyr 98 **PCR Convention**, Double Tree Inn, Modesto, CA

July 20-26
NMRA Convention, Heartland Express, Kansas City, MO

1999

May 12-16
Mendocino Journey, **PCR Convention**, Convention Center, Ukiah, CA

July 18-24
NMRA Convention, NorthStar '99, Saint Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota

2000

April PCR Mini-Convention, Fremont
July 30 - Aug 6
NMRA Convention, 21st Century Limited, San Jose, CA

Send information to Branch Line Editor, Dave Connery, 3408 Lanai Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583